

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 226446
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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226446

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UN FINANCES: APPORTIONMENT OF UNTAG COSTS

REF: USUN 03457

1. AS REPORTED PARA 1 REFTTEL, AMBASSADOR JAIPAL (INDIA) HAS SUGGESTED EXISTENCE OF PRECEDENT IN PAST UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS FOR COST BEING MET IN LARGE PART BY NATIONS MOST CLOSELY RELATED TO THE DISPUTE. PRESUMABLY, HE WAS REFERRING TO THE FIRST UNEF AND THE CONGO OPERATIONS WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINANCED BY (1) LEVYING ASSESSMENTS FOR THE MAJOR PART OF THE EXPENSES; (2) APPEALING FOR AND OBTAINING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS; (3) INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND; AND (4) AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF UNITED NATIONS BONDS. THUS THE INITIAL FINANCING OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 226446

THE CONGO OPERATION IN 1960 WAS FUNDED BY ASSESSMENTS ON MEMBER STATES MITIGATED BY THE APPLICATION OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO REDUCE BY UP TO 50 PERCENT THE ASSESSMENTS OF NEWLY ADMITTED MEMBERS AND THOSE MEMBERS RECEIVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS.

2. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE REJECTION BY THE WESTERN FIVE

OF THIS PROBE BY JAIPAL AND BISHARA (KUWAIT) WHICH COULD BE INTENDED AS A NEGOTIATING POSITION TO COUNTER THE U.S.

POSITION IN FAVOR OF FUNDING UNTAG ON THE BASIS OF THE REGULAR UN SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS. AT THE UN ASSESSMENT RATES FOR 1978-79, INDIA AT 0.68 PERCENT WOULD BE ASSESSED DOLLARS 2,040,000 OF A 300 MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET AND KUWAIT DOLLARS 450,000. HOWEVER, INDIA AND KUWAIT MAY BE BARGAINING IN THE HOPE THAT THE UNEF/UNDOF SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS WOULD BE ADOPTED AS AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE. UNDER THE UNEF/UNDOF FORMULA INDIA WOULD BE ASSESSED ONLY DOLLARS 408,000 AND KUWAIT DOLLARS 90,000 OF A 300 MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET.

3. ALTHOUGH THE CONGRESS HAS GIVEN FULL SUPPORT TO U.S. PARTICIPATION IN UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS HAS EVIDENCED CONCERN THAT U.S. PAYMENTS HAVE EXCEEDED 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL COST OF SUCH OPERATIONS. THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE FY 1979 APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR THE U.S. SHARE OF MAINTAINING UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST STATES:
QUOTE THE COMMITTEE IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE U.S. ASSESSMENT FOR MAINTAINING THESE FORCES. THE UNITED STATES ASSESSMENT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IS LIMITED TO 25 PERCENT OF THE BUDGETS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS, YET THE UNITED STATES ASSESSMENT FOR THE BUDGET
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 226446

REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THESE FORCES IS 29.3 PERCENT OF THE BUDGET. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO HOLD THE UNITED STATES ASSESSMENT WITHIN THE 25 PERCENT CEILING APPLICABLE TO THE UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. UNQUOTE.

CHRISTOPHER

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